

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DYNAMIC DATA FLOW CONTROL

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A data center (14) receives a request (22) for content
from a browser (12) on a client (11). The data center
determines whether the requested content is available at the
data center. The content is available when the content is
both present at the data center and current. The content may
be expired and marked as non-available in response to an
10 expiration command (24). When the requested content is
available at the data center, the data center returns the
requested content to the data center. When the requested
content is locally unavailable at the data center, the
requested content is retrieved from an origin server (18).
15 The retrieval of the content from the origin server may be
delayed based on the processing load at the origin server.
When retrieval of the content is delayed, the request is
prioritized and placed in a queue for handling by the origin
server based on the priority of the request. Also, when
20 retrieval of the content is delayed, a status page may be
communicated to the browser to inform a user of the delay and
provide alternate content (139) and status information related
to the request determined as a function of the request or the
current state of the origin server.

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